

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 16, 2017
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Harbor Operations Report**

FEBRUARY 17TH STORM REPORT

After a series of late January storms pounded Santa Barbara, the nastiest storm in years packed an even greater punch on Friday, February 17th. Torrential rains, 35-knot southeast winds and high seas ripped through the waterfront, grounded five boats, wiped out a protective sand berm for the third time, tore six pilings loose from Stearns Wharf, clogged the harbor with all manner of debris and created dangerous shoaling conditions at the harbor entrance.

Four of the five grounded boats landed on East Beach; one landed on Butterfly Beach, in Santa Barbara County. Two of the grounded boats ripped loose from the permitted mooring area, two came from the winter anchorage. Nobody was on board any of the vessels. In addition, severe beach scouring from the storm unearthed the top of a steel vessel submerged for many years (exactly how many remains a mystery). All boats were removed from the beach within days, either by their owners or by Marborg Industries. Total City cost for Marborg's efforts was \$1,800.

Cushman Contracting employed its "salad boat" crew for several days, augmenting staff efforts to remove harbor debris and what appeared to be mulch-like material. "Extra work" cost for this effort, which supplemented Cushman's standard biweekly harbor clean-up was \$17,000.

Meanwhile, On February 23rd, the U.S. Coast Guard established a "Safety Zone" at the harbor entrance, where depths at zero tide averaged seven feet. The Safety Zone declaration conferred legal authority to Harbor Patrol to manage, allow or disallow all vessel traffic out of or into the harbor. The Safety Zone was set to expire on March 16th, pending the start of harbor dredging early in the month, which began March 1st.

WET WEDNESDAYS BEGIN MARCH 15TH

Following the Yacht Club's opening-day ceremonies on Sunday, March 5th, Wet Wednesday races began March 15th. A Yacht Club staple and harbinger of the upcoming boating season, Wet Wednesday races run through mid-October. The races are open to any boat entered by a member of a U.S. Sailing Association-recognized club. Locally, this means Santa Barbara Sailing Club and Santa Barbara Yacht Club boats, with occasional out-of-town visitors are invited to participate. Anyone can participate as crew aboard an eligible boat. Wet Wednesday courses vary with wind conditions and boat size, and vary in length from 2-8 miles. The first start is at 5:10 p.m., followed by six other classes spaced five minutes apart. Following the races, the

Yacht Club hosts an “after party” barbeque open to all racers and their guests. For more information, contact the Santa Barbara Yacht Club at (805) 965-8112 or visit their website at www.sbyc.org.

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP MAY 6TH

The 11th annual Operation Clean Sweep, a volunteer seafloor cleanup program, will take place Saturday, May 6th, from 8 am to noon. The event starts with coffee, donuts and a briefing on the Travel Lift Pier (next to the Harbor Patrol Office). This year we'll focus on Marina 3, after last's year's effort in Marina 4 brought the 10-year total of debris removed to 17.7 tons.

Typically, Clean Sweep draws 40-50 volunteer dock workers, aided by about a dozen divers from harbor-area dive-service companies. It's a fun and productive “fishing trip” that yields surprises ranging from barbeques and bow pulpits to deck chairs, satellite dishes, cell phones and more. Volunteers enjoy a free lunch at 11:30 a.m. when the cleanup concludes.

Persons wishing to participate in this year's event can contact Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager, at (805) 897-2587 or MKronman@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

HARBOR NAUTICAL SWAP MEET MAY 13TH

Sponsored by the Waterfront Department and Harbor Merchants Association, the 8th annual Harbor Nautical Swap Meet will take place Saturday, May 13th in the Marina 3 parking lot. Come to buy, sell, peruse or just enjoy good company, coffee and donuts at this uniquely local event. Typical sale items include sailboat rigging, fishing gear, outboard motors, surfboards, paddleboards, kayaks and all manner of boat parts. Signups for vendor spaces (\$10 apiece) begin Monday, April 10th.

And while taking inventory of what you need to buy or sell, check your dock box too, since again this year the Waterfront Department will sponsor a Hazmat Turn-in event on May 13th, in conjunction with the Swap Meet. Next to the Swap Meet, you'll find a marked disposal area for hazardous materials you may want to get rid of before boating season hits high gear—items like waste oil, old cans of varnish, lacquer or paint, or small amounts of gasoline or diesel. The Hazmat Turn-in is funded in part through a CalRecycle used-oil grant. In an effort to limit the Hazmat event to harbor boat owners only, an “entry ticket” will be included in May's slip billing. The ticket entitles slip permittee to dispose of any appropriate items from their boat or dock box. No ticket is necessary to participate in the Swap Meet.

Questions? Contact Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager, at (805) 897-2587 or MKronman@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.